

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 31 and 32, and add new claims 33 and 34 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for the transportation of construction machines comprising:

a front subassembly for coupling to a tractor vehicle and a rear subassembly, wherein the front subassembly has a first locking unit positioned on a rear end of the front assembly for directly joining to a first lateral end of a construction machine having at least one traction element and the rear subassembly has a second locking unit positioned at a front end of the rear assembly for directly joining to a second lateral end of the construction machine,

in a coupling position, the at least one traction element of the construction machine being disposed on a ground surface and the construction machine is laterally joined together with the front subassembly and the rear subassembly to form a single transportation unit with the front and rear subassemblies supporting the construction machine on the ground for movement during transport in the lateral direction and without supporting structure underneath the construction machine and in a transportation position, the at least one traction element of the construction machine being raised off the ground, and

the front and rear subassemblies each include a truck undercarriage with one or more axles; and

said system further including at least one intermediate loading platform which is connectable to the rear end of the front assembly and the front end of the rear assembly for being positioned therebetween.

Claim 2. Canceled

3. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 1 wherein the front subassembly includes a semitrailer coupler of a trailer.

4. (Currently amended) A system for the transportation of construction machines comprising:

a front subassembly for coupling to a tractor vehicle and a rear subassembly, wherein the front subassembly has a first locking unit positioned on a rear end of the front assembly for directly joining to a first lateral end of a construction machine having at least one traction element, and the rear subassembly has a second locking unit positioned at a front end of the rear assembly for directly joining to a second lateral end of the construction machine,

in a coupling position, the at least one traction element of the construction machine being disposed on a ground surface and the construction machine being disposed on a ground surface and the construction machine is laterally joined together with the front subassembly and the rear subassembly to form a single transportation unit and in a transportation position, the at least one traction element of the construction machine being raised off the ground, and

the front and rear subassemblies are self-contained units raisable and lowerable to couple and/or lock the construction machine; and

said system further including at least one intermediate loading platform which is connectable to the rear end of the front assembly and the front end of the rear assembly for being positioned therebetween.

5. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 4 wherein the front and rear subassemblies include an air cushion or a hydraulic cushion, for raising and lowering.

6. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1 wherein said first and second locking units are each structured and arranged to laterally receive the construction machine including a loading platform.

7 - 20. Canceled

21. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the front and rear subassemblies are self-contained units raisable and lowerable to couple and/or lock the construction machine.

22. (Previously presented) A system of claim 21, wherein the front and rear subassemblies include an air cushion or a hydraulic cushion, for raising and lowering.

23. (Previously presented) A system of claim 4, wherein the front and rear subassemblies each include a truck undercarriage with one or more axles.

24. (Previously presented) A system of claim 23, wherein the first front subassembly includes a semitrailer coupler of a trailer.

25. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the construction machine is an excavator.

26. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the at least one traction element is a crawler track.

27. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the at least one traction element is a wheel.

28. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the construction machine includes a plurality of traction elements.

29. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the front subassembly and the rear subassembly include a steering mechanism.

30. (Previously presented) A system of claim 1, wherein the front subassembly and the rear subassembly each include a steering mechanism.

31. (Currently amended) A method for transportation of construction machines, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a front subassembly for coupling to a tractor vehicle and a rear subassembly, the front subassembly having a first locking unit and the rear subassembly having a second locking unit said front and rear subassemblies having means for connection to an intermediate loading platform positioned therebetween;

optionally, providing a construction machine having a first portion, a second portion and at least one traction element;

disposing the first portion and the second portion of the construction machine in a coupling position such that the at least one traction element is disposed on a ground surface and the first portion is adjacent the front subassembly and the second portion is adjacent the rear subassembly;

raising the rear subassembly into engagement with the second portion and the front subassembly with the first portion into a transportation position such that the second locking unit is fixed with the second portion and the first locking unit is fixed with the first portion, and the at least one traction element is raised off the ground; and

transporting the construction machine in the transportation position,or

providing the intermediate loading platform, connecting the intermediate loading platform to the front and rear subassemblies and transporting the intermediate loading platform.

32. (Currently amended) A method of claim 31, wherein the ~~construction machine is an excavator~~ the front and rear assemblies are connected to the intermediate loading platform and not the construction machine.

33. (New) The system of claim 1 including a high bed loading platform and a low bed loading platform.

34. (New) The system of claim 4 including a high bed loading platform and a low bed loading platform.